

About the Competition...

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation has once again partnered with the Indiana Arts Commission to support *Poetry Out Loud,* a program which encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This exciting , **FREE** program helps high school students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. Classrooms, clubs, and groups from all over the nation will be participating in 2008/2009 *Poetry Out Loud*.

Competitions will first be held at the school level to determine up to two students that will represent their school at the regional finals. The regional and state competition will be held in late February to determine the state champion and who will go on to represent Indiana at the 2008/2009 *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals in Washington D.C. on April 26-28, 2009!

The winner at the state level will receive:

- \$200 cash prize
- All-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete for the National Final competition, April 26-28, 2009.

The state winner's school will receive:

• \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books.

The state runner up will receive:

• \$100, with \$200 for his/her school library.

A total of \$50,000 in scholarship awards and school stipends will be awarded at the *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals, with a \$20,000 college scholarship award for the National Champion.

How do I sign up?

For more information, please contact:

Susan Britsch

Community Development Mgr/ Arts Education Coordinator at sbritsch@iac.IN.gov or (317) 232-1281.

Visit the official website www.poetryoutloud.org

Under federal law, participation in state competitions and the National Finals is restricted to U.S. citizens or permanent residents.